(c) In order to check rape and crime against women, Delhi police is conducting gender sensitization courses in Units and Districts. A central 'crime against women cell' has been set up under Senior Police Officer of the Rank of Addl. Commissioner of Police and similar cells have been set up at the district level. A sizable number of women staff has been posted in these cells and are briefed regularly to take prompt and effective action. Extra staff has been deployed at the Girls/Women institutions to keep watch on suspicious persons and to give sense of security to the women. A women help line is functioning which helps them in emotional distress.

Further, emphasis is being laid on checking the gangs and criminals active in Delhi and all Police Districts are targeting individual gangs and desperate criminals. A special cell under crime branch targets terrorists and subversive activities and acts of extortion and gang activities with inter-state linkages. Vigorous patrolling and surveillance has been mounted to instill confidence amongst general public and fear among the criminals. Police presence has been ensured at sensitive points. Police Stations with high crime rate have been identified and extra man power/motorcycle patrol have been provided. A series of preventive measures aimed at neutralizing active criminals have been initiated in a concerted manner. More than 300 dispirited criminals having potential to strike have been identified and surveillance is being organized on their activities.

Re-Activation of Rape Crises Intervention Centres

†830. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption, "Rape Intervention Centres to be put back on Track", published at page number 3 of the 'Hindustan Times' dated 17th October, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government will re-activate Rape Crises Intervention Centres (RCIC) in view of the rapidly increasing incidents of rapes in Delhi;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) action taken by Government to save the rape victims from police harassment?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The "Rape Intervention Centres" have been functioning effectively. However, Delhi Police have, in light of the past experience, framed new guidelines in order to further enhance their effectiveness and utility.

(e) The measures taken to save the rape victims from any harassment include (a) imparting training to three upper sub-ordinates, preferably women officers, at each Police Station to function as investigating officers in rape cases; and (b) ensuring that the rape victims or their relatives are not in connection with investigation of the case made to come to the Police Station and instead the investigating officers visit their residences in plain clothes.

Setting UP of Special CBI Court

831. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had set aside on a purely technical ground, the notification setting up a Special CBI Court to deal with the Babri Masjid demolition case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps initiated to get a fresh notification issued for reconstituting the Special Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) : The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court in its judgement dated 12-2-2001 has held that the notification dated 8th October, 1993 issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh adding crime No. 198/92 to the Schedule of cases in the earlier notification dated 9-9-1993, is invalid as the said notification was not issued in consultation with the High Court and therefore, the cognizance, committal and the order passed by the trial Court on 9-9-1997 for framing of charges in respect of crime No. 198/92 under sections 153A, 153B and 505 of the Indian Penal Code are illegal and without jurisdiction.

(c) The CBI has requested the Government of UP to take necessary action to rectify the defect in the notification dated 8-10-1993. Against the High Court judgement dated 12-2-2001, four Special Leave Petitions are pending consideration in the Supreme Court. In reply to these petitions, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has filed its affidavit stating therein that there was no need to issue any fresh notification in the matter. Union of India is not a party to any of these petitions. The matter is sub-judice and pending consideration of the apex Court.